

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

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Conyers Blasts Final Whitewater Report

Rep. John Conyers, Ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement upon the release today of the final Whitewater Report by the Independent Counsel:

“The best thing that can be said about today’s report is that the partisan witch hunt against President Clinton should finally be over. Nearly ten years and more than \$70 million after this fishing expedition began, we have a report that merely rehashes the same tired allegations that have been circulating in right wing Republican circles for years. It is easy to see why this investigation proved to be the death knell for the Independent Counsel Act itself.

This investigation revealed just about every single problem we had with the old Independent Counsel Law. We started with an overzealous counsel in Kenneth Starr, who had no prosecutorial experience and it showed. His selection was tainted from the outset, when he was picked by a three-judge panel which included a judge (Sentelle) who had met with one of President Clinton’s severest critics (Sen. Faircloth) immediately prior to the selection. Starr was loaded down with conflicts, and at one time considered accepting a job funded by one of President Clinton’s most outspoken critics, Richard Scaiffe. We ended with Independent Counsel Robert Ray, who chose to create his own conflicts by using his position as a spring board to run for Senate as a Republican.

If there is anything new in this report, it is the revelation of a dirty tricks campaign by Bush administration officials, including former White House counsel C. Boyden Gray, to publicly promote the discredited Whitewater conspiracy theories of a low-level Resolution Trust Corporation employee Jean Lewis. It once again demonstrates that this began as a poisonous effort to destroy President Clinton and has now ended with a partisan whimper.”

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